




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR INALA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Darra-Springfield Railway Line; Newman Government, Performance

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): Before I formally commence my matter of public interest, I would like to announce good news for the people of South-East Queensland. On Monday, 2 December, the Darra-Springfield railway line will be complete. It will be up and running, built by a Labor government. This is fantastic news for people living in that western corridor. It will mean that there will be consistent services stopping at all stations between Springfield central and the Brisbane CBD. There will be services every six to 12 minutes in the morning peak and every 12 minutes in the afternoon peak. I am also advised that there will be consistent 30-minute departures Monday to Friday off peak and on Saturdays and services every hour from 7 am and every half an hour from approximately 10 am to 10.30 pm each Sunday.

This railway line was about a Labor government looking to the future. It was about planning for the south-east and the growth that we have seen out at Springfield. I am also very pleased that the member for Bundamba and I have been invited to attend the official opening on Sunday, 1 December. I am quite sure that this is great news for those people living in that Springfield area—the residents of Camira, Ellen Grove, Forest Lake and Richlands.

The opening of this corridor sees the completion of years of detailed planning. This is great news and it is very pleasing for me as I was the transport minister over the last year of the Bligh government and I was intimately involved in this project. This is a great railway extension. It is much needed. It was visionary planning for the future and I am quite sure that all the residents will be very pleased when it is up and running on Monday, 2 December.

I listened with keen interest when the Premier spoke earlier in answer to a question asked very clearly by the member for Woodridge about how many jobs have been lost under this government. We all recall before the election the Premier stating very clearly that the Public Service had nothing to fear. At the time it was a very clear commitment by the Premier. Now, when you see the total number of jobs that have gone over the different portfolios and you take into account those job losses from government owned corporations, we are talking about approximately 17,000 people who have lost their jobs since this government came to office. Seventeen thousand people is a lot. It means that when we come up to Christmas next month there will be families who are facing a very bleak Christmas. These job losses also put pressure on families to do the things that other families perhaps take for granted and that is celebrate with family and friends and be able to enjoy the holidays and the festive season.

The other matter that I am very concerned about is the cost of living. This government made a very firm commitment in its pledge to Queenslanders that it would lower the cost of living. In fact, we have seen quite the opposite. Under this government, we have seen the cost of living spiralling out of

control. People across Queensland are very concerned about the cost of their electricity bills. Their electricity bills have increased over \$250 a year and this is making it very difficult for families to make ends meet.

This issue was put in very clear perspective for me when I attended the Glenala State High School graduation just last Friday. The school captain, Filippo, who has done a tremendous job over the last year, talked about how his family had made many sacrifices for him to reach his achievements at the school. That really impressed upon me that it is the basic things that matter in people's lives. Filippo said that he would like to thank his mother in particular for making sure that the family always had food on the table. A lot of families across Queensland will not be celebrating Christmas to the extent that perhaps those in this House will be coming up to the festive season. When we think about it, there is nothing more important than for families to be able to provide for each other, to make sure that there is food there, to make sure that they have shelter and to make sure that someone in the family unit has a good-quality, decent job. What we have seen from this government is that it has ripped those jobs away from those families and that is making it very difficult for them to make ends meet when we come up to the Christmas period.

As I look back over the year in review, what also stands out very clearly is the stripping away of workers' rights across this state. I have said time and time again in this House that there is nothing more important than the dignity of work and there is nothing more important than families being able to have a job. I have never seen so many rallies outside Parliament House. People are upset with the direction—

Mr Cripps: You have.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not since the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era. Today, we will see another rally out here at 5.30, once again about this government changing the industrial relations structure here in Queensland, stripping away people's hard fought rights—hard fought rights that they have fought for not just for decades but for centuries. They have been fighting to make sure that they get good pay—

Mr BERRY: I rise to a point of order. That is a matter for debate for today. I do not know that the opposition leader—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! What reference is ruled anticipation?

Mr BERRY: We have the industrial relations bill on today and the Leader of the Opposition has forecast that there is going to be a rally outside.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Ipswich does not like talk of a rally. No, he does not like it. Perhaps there are going to be a lot of people from Ipswich coming down to raise their voices.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have been keeping my comments very broad, because it is about what this government is doing in relation to stripping away people's hard fought right to have a decent wage for a decent day's work. There is nothing more fundamental than that. Once again, nothing was said before the election—absolutely nothing at all. We have seen the attacks by this government on fundamental core service delivery. Not once before the election was anything said about over 4,000 health workers being sacked. As I travel around the state everyone is making it very clear to me that the health services in the regions are suffering. They are suffering because a Health minister and a government are ripping out the funds and not delivering the services to the communities that they need the most.

How can we forget what the education minister has done in relation to schools across our state. We have seen schools being axed and families torn apart and upset about the direction of this government when not once before the election did they talk about closing down schools in local communities. Then they released graphs that clearly showed that in those areas where they were looking at closing down some of the schools there was actually a forecast increase in growth in the coming years which would mean that the government would have to look at once again rebuilding those schools.

We could go on and on, but the main issue that I raise here today is the list of broken promises by this government. They went to the election promising to lower the cost of living and keep people in the dignity of work. They have lied to the people of Queensland on many occasions and broken that trust. If we look back at the year, I will not even recap what the member for Redlands did because it is embarrassing, on the member for Ipswich West who says he is always happy to be known as a Stalinist or the member for Currumbin, the tourist minister, who encouraged everybody to take

holidays in Queensland then went overseas on her own personal holiday. Then we have a Premier who actually made the most astonishing comment that, reflecting back, he enjoyed his time as Lord Mayor more than his time as Premier. I think that about sums it up.

In conclusion, I think Queenslanders will be very disappointed at the direction that they have seen the government take over the last 12 months. It has not been a government that has been deliberately setting a course for Queenslanders into the future, it has been a government that has talked a lot about visions and 30-year plans, and we have not seen any further details in relation to that. What we are seeing is families out there that are hurting, families that are not able to make ends meet; a government that constantly undermines workers in this state, stripping away their rights, stripping away their jobs. That is not what Queenslanders voted for. Come the next election I am quite sure that Queenslanders on more than one occasion will be prepared to send this government a very clear message that it is not good enough.